

BEGINNING ALGEBRA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Operations with signed numbers, algebraic expressions, linear equations and their graphs, inequalities, exponents, radical expressions and equations, factoring, rational expressions and equations, quadratic equations and applications

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

- solve linear, quadratic, rational and radical equations, systems of equations and inequalities.
- graph linear equations and inequalities and to understand the relationship between a graph and the equation that generates it.
- understand, set up, solve and interpret the solution of application problems.

REQUIRED TEXT: Charles P. McKeague, Elementary Algebra, 5th edition, Saunders College Publishing, 1995.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all class meetings, be on time, and be in class the entire class session. The only excused absences are those due to a school related activity or a requirement to appear in court. Calling me to tell me you will be absent **does not** excuse you. **Five (5) absences** may result in a drop from the course. However, if you decide to drop the course, it is **your** responsibility to make the drop official in the Admissions and Records office or else possibly receive a grade of **F**.

Attendance Grade: Each student will begin the semester with **twenty-four (24)** attendance points. Each absence will result in the loss of four **(4)** attendance points, and each tardy will cost you two (2) points. If you are absent more than **six (6)** times, you will continue to lose points per absence or tardy, but now these points will be taken from other earned points, such as homework and tests. **If you leave class early you will lose two (2) attendance points!**

TARDIES: Students are expected to be on time. It is distracting, rude and unfair to fellow classmates and to the instructor when a student is late. **Two tardies will be counted as an absence.** You are responsible for telling me, **at the end of class**, that you were tardy. If you do not tell me of your tardy, you risk losing four attendance points (an absence) instead of just two points (a tardy)

HOMEWORK: An assignment sheet will be passed out at the beginning of each chapter. There will be two types of assignments – **textbook problems** and **computer problems**. All problems will always be collected the next class session. Computer problems will be worth five (5) points per assignment, and the textbook problems will be worth ten (10) points per assignment. Each assignment collected will be graded on completeness, neatness, and effort. Problems must be written out (except word problems) and **all work must be shown** in order to receive credit. **NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

*Note: Being absent the day homework is collected does **not** entitle you to turn it in late!*

MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS: An optional makeup assignment will be listed on the assignment sheet for each chapter. This makeup assignment is worth five (5) points and can be used to help makeup missed assignments, increase low homework grades or as extra credit homework points.

TESTS: Eight tests, worth 100 points each, will be given. There are **NO MAKEUPS** for missed tests. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** *If you absolutely must be absent on the day a test is scheduled, you may discuss with me the possibility of taking the test early.*

FINAL EXAM: A two hour comprehensive final exam worth 100 points will be given at the end of the semester during finals week. This final exam is optional and may be used to replace a low test score or a missed test. The final may **not** be used to replace the homework grade or attendance grade.

GRADING:

- All your homework scores will be added up and divided by the total possible homework points for the semester. This will give you a score between 1 and 100 for homework.
- All eight of your test grades will be added up. This will give your total test score as a number between 1 and 800. [Remember: your final exam score can be used to replace a low or missed test.]
- Your homework score, test scores, and attendance grade will be added up and divided by 924 (total possible points for the semester). This will give what percentage of the total possible points you have earned this semester. Your grade will then be determined by the following grading scale:

Percent of Total Possible

Grade

89 - 100
78 - 88
65 - 77
55 - 64
0 - 54

A
B
C
D
F

Important Dates:

August 27, 1999 – Last day to add

September 6, 1999 – Labor Day Holiday

September 17, 1999 – Last day to file for Credit/No Credit grading basis

October 15, 1999 – Last day to drop

November 11, 1999 – Veteran's Day Holiday

November 25-26, 1999 – Thanksgiving Holiday

FINAL EXAM DATE:

Monday, December 13, 1999 – 10:30-12:30 a.m.